

5 We claim:

1. A process for the recovery of a macrolide in substantially pure form comprising:
  - a) treatment of an impure or crude macrolide with water immiscible solvent,
  - b) optional concentration of the mixture,
  - c) treatment with ammonia gas to phase out impurities,
  - d) separation of impurities,
  - e) optional concentration of the phase containing the macrolide,
  - f) loading on silica gel chromatography, optionally reversed phase or pretreated with silver, and elution of the macrolide,
  - g) affording the macrolide in substantially pure form,
  - h) optional repetition of step f and g to afford the macrolide in substantially pure form.
- 15 2. A process as in claim 1, wherein the macrolide is selected from tacrolimus, immunomycin or sirolimus.
3. A process as in claim 1, wherein the water immiscible solvent is selected from a group comprising hydrocarbons, heterocyclic compounds, ethers or esters.
- 25 4. A process as in claim 1, wherein the water immiscible solvents is selected from a group comprising benzene, toluene, hexane, ethyl acetate, isobutyl acetate or butyl acetate.
- 30 5. A process as in claim 1, wherein the macrolide compound is afforded by crystallization or precipitation.